[27th January 1931

Newspapers

Officer for censoring news in daily newspapers.

*49 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state if any Government officer has been employed by any daily newspaper in Madras or elsewhere for the purpose of censoring news before issue, and if so, who is paying the salary of the officer and the number and names of the daily newspapers in Madras who have so employed the officer's services?

A.—The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part of the question therefore does not arise.

Police

Alleged lathi charges in June at Mangalore.

*50 Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) on how many days there were lathi charges and beating of Congress volunteers by the police in Mangalore town in the month of June 1930; and

(b) whether on the second day of the lathi charges or on any other date some persons who were wearing white khaddar caps, and who were in their private houses were pursued and beaten by the police, though they were not Congress volunteers?

A.—(a) & (b) The only information the Government have as to the use of force in Mangalore is that on June 25th last the police dispersed a procession led in defiance of an order of the District Magistrate under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I know, Sir, why the information was not called for?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"There is no necessity for further information. I have given the answer from the information available here."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"Information in the light of the question?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Government did not think it necessary to call for the information. From the information at our disposal we have given the answer."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"With reference to this question the interpellator has raised an important question, namely, whether people were beaten by the police. May I know whether the Government deny this charge or admit it?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Government have received no information from the District Magistrate."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether Government will call for the information?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"The suggestion will be considered."